

FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Gabriella Paterson-Griggs

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Website www.fletching-pc.org



3rd July 2024

FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - Monday 8th July 2024

To Members of the Fletching Parish Council: You are summoned to attend a meeting of Fletching Parish Council on Monday 8th July 2024, 6.30pm at the Pavilion, Fletching Recreation Ground.

Signed: *Gabriella Paterson-Griggs*, Clerk and RFO

Public Questions

The first ten minutes, before the start of the meeting, are available for public participation. Members of the public may ask questions or make representations, in respect of the business on the agenda. They may only speak at other points during the meeting, at the Chairman's discretion, if they have knowledge or information that will aid the discussion.

This meeting may be audio recorded for the purpose of minute taking

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence as reported at the meeting. - [Cllr Minch](#)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of items on the agenda, as required by the Members' Code of Conduct.

3. MINUTES

To resolve that the minutes of the meetings held on 10th June 2024 as circulated on the agenda are confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. – [see attached](#)

4. MATTERS ARISING – [see attached](#)

Update on any matters arising from the last meeting not covered elsewhere on the agenda. To note any action taken or agree further action to be taken.

5. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

To receive a report from the County Councillor Roy Galley.

6. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

To receive a report from District Councillor Christina Coleman.

7. WORKING GROUPS / EXTERNAL GROUPS

To receive reports/updates from the Working Groups and External Bodies:

- i. Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Councillor Hannay
- ii. Fletching Recreation Ground Committee – Clerk
- iii. Ashdown Forest Parish Liaison Meeting – Councillor Minch – [see attached notes](#)
- iv. Code of Conduct Training – Councillor Hannay and Clerk – [verbal feedback](#)

8. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

To note any correspondence received since the last meeting and agreed any actions arising.

- i. Wealden District Council – Sandbag Policy – [see attached](#)

9. FINANCE AND ASSETS

- i. To approve the invoices and payments for July 2024 and note the Council's current financial position and bank reconciliation. – [see attached](#)
- ii. CIL Monitoring Report 2023/24 – to agree the return for Fletching – [see attached](#)

10. CIL FUNDS – PROJECTS

- i. Replacement Litter Bins – Fletching Village – [circulated separately](#)
- ii. Fletching Pavilion Refurbishment

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11. BURIAL GROUND

To approve any requests or permits for the Burial Ground.

- i. To note an interment taking place – [see attached](#)

PLANNING AND LICENSING

12. ENFORCEMENT – PLANNING AND DRAINAGE

To discuss any issues/updates raised related to suspected breaches of planning or other regulations.

- i. **Flitteridge Farm, Daleham Lane** – update
- ii. **Lay-by opposite Piltdown Service Station** - update

13. PLANNING APPLICATIONS – RECEIVED – [proposed comments to follow](#)

To agree comments to be submitted to Wealden District Council for the following applications:

i. **WD/2024/1266/LB Sheffield Park Garden, Sheffield Park TN22 3QX**

Removal of non-historic felt flat roof covering and insulation to then replace with new insulation of the same thickness and a renewed felt roof covering. (Comments to be submitted by 9 July 2024)

ii. **WD/2024/1366/LB Churchgate House, High Street, Fletching TN22 3SS**

Repair of timber windows and replacement timber windows. (Comments to be submitted by 9 July 2024)

iii. **WD/2024/1425/LB The Griffin, High Street, Fletching TN22 3SS**

Replacement of existing dilapidated trade kitchen cookline extract flue and air intake, forming new lobby into trade kitchen. Repositioning of stud walling within second floor laundry/boiler room, entrance plaque signage, 2 no electric charging bays and improvements to disabled customer parking. (Comments to be submitted by 24 July 2024)

iv. **WD/2024/1346/F Little Wild, Sharpsbridge Lane, Piltdown TN22 3XG**

Proposed single storey side extension, enlargement of side dormer window, side extension to provide main entrance vestibule, roof lights, proposed swimming pool and related development. (Comments to be submitted by 18 July 2024)

14. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - DECISIONS

To note the planning application decisions from Wealden District Council received since the last meeting(s):

Applications Approved – none since the last meeting

Applications Refused – none since the last meeting

Applications Withdrawn

i. **WD/2024/0348/F Moons Farm, Sharpsbridge Lane, Piltdown TN22 3XG**

Construction of 20M x 40M equestrian arena, stable block comprising 5 no. stables and hardstanding. (WITHDRAWN 12 June 2024)

15. VE DAY 80 – 8th May 2025

To note the national arrangements for the VE DAY 80th Anniversary celebrations taking place on 8th May 2025. – [document circulated separately](#)

16. FLETCHING BONFIRE SOCIETY SUMMER FETE – [see attached](#)

To confirm the arrangements for the Parish Council stall at the Summer Fete on 20 July 2024.

17. ITEMS FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE

To agree any items to be included in future editions of the Parish Magazine

18. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

To discuss and note any future agenda items

19. TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

To agree the time and date of the next meeting of the Parish Council.

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MINUTES of the Meeting of **FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL** held on Monday 10th June 2024 in the West End, Fletching Parish Church, Church Street, Fletching (6.30 – 7.40pm).

PRESENT: Councillors R Hannay (Chair), A Abraham, R Borton, N Collum, W Constantinou, K Minch and S De St Croix.

Also in attendance: Gabriella Paterson-Griggs (Clerk and RFO) and Councillors C Coleman (WDC) and R Galley (ESCC)

Members of the Public in Attendance: 1

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D Greenish.

24/101. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

24/102. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting held on 13th May 2024 were a correct record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

24/103. MATTERS ARISING

The Actions List as prepared and circulated by the Clerk was noted.

The Code of Conduct 2024 approved at the meeting held on 13 May was duly signed by Councillors Abraham and Constantinou who had not been present at that meeting.

24/104. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Councillor Galley stated that, due to the general election taking place on 4th July and the pre-election period, there was not a great deal to report. It was noted that some progress had been made in respect of mending potholes on Ruston Bridge Road but was hoping for more. He also reported that, as he was now the Chairman of ESCC, he would be standing down as the Chair of the Fire Authority.

With regards to the pollution issue in Shortbridge Road it was noted that tests had confirmed that the spillage related to trade waste but the Environment Agency (EA) was not going to be taking any action as it was deemed a class 3 spill. This was very disappointing and frustrating particularly as both Councillors Galley and Coleman had requested for a meeting either online or onsite but had not had a response from the EA. It was confirmed that the EA was the enforcement agency. Councillor Coleman confirmed that she was continuing to fight the EA on the matter.

24/105. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Councillor Coleman reported that Wealden officers were still uploading all the responses that had been emailed in on the local plan consultation. Once this was completed a summary report would be written – probably in another two or three weeks. In response to a query Councillor Coleman stated that she was not aware of the timetable slipping due to the number of responses received. It was noted that no date had been set for the Local Plan Sub-Committee due to the pre-election period – this was the meeting where the submissions would be considered. However, the four-year land supply mark had now been passed.

Councillors noted that the District Council had approved £600k of CIL funds that organisations would be able to bid for, later in the year, on projects relating to sports provision.

It was also reported that the Planning Portfolio Holder had thoroughly investigated the rumours that London Boroughs were purchasing houses in Wealden and he had found no truth in the rumours as if that were the case the councils in question would have to notify Wealden of the fact. Councillor Galley confirmed that the rumours had been circulating for a long time and he had also investigated them in the past and found them to be untrue.

Councillor Coleman praised everyone who had been involved in the D-Day 80 Anniversary commemorations in Fletching as she had attended the event and thoroughly enjoyed it.

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Note: Councillor De St Croix arrived at the meeting at 6.45pm at the end of this item.

24/106. PLANNING APPLICATION RECEIVED

The following application was discussed. See Minute 24/114 (ii) below for further information.

WD/2023/2989/F Piltdown Poultry, Fairhazel, Piltdown TN22 3YE

24/107. WORKING GROUPS / EXTERNAL GROUPS

- i. *Neighbourhood Plan:* Councillor Hannay reported that the Steering Group had met with the planning consultant the previous week and had taken him around the parish. The next stage was for the consultant to produce a plan as to how the draft policies could be delivered as well as tying them to the emerging Wealden Local Plan. Councillor Hannay also informed the Parish Council that the £10k grant bid to Locality had been approved which would cover the consultant's costs for this phase of the plan.
- ii. *Fletching Recreation Ground Committee (FRGC):* The Clerk reported that the pavilion refurbishment had been completed and that the next phase would be to apply for grants to refurbish the kitchen and toilets. It was noted that the hiring fees and terms and conditions for non-sports club use were being looked at and would be published in due course. There was also a new online bookings calendar for the Pavilion and Recreation Ground available through the Parish Council website.

24/108. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

There had been no correspondence received.

24/109. FINANCE AND ASSETS

- i. The invoices and payments for June 2024 were **AUTHORISED** and the Council's current financial position and bank reconciliation were noted.
- ii. CIL Funds – replacement bins. This item was **DEFERRED** to the next meeting as the information had only just been received by the Clerk.

24/110. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR)

- i. The internal audit report from Mulberry Local Authority Services was **NOTED**.
- ii. The AGAR Section 1 Annual Governance Statement was **APPROVED** and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.
- iii. The AGAR Section 2 Accounting Statement was **APPROVED** and signed by the Chairman.

24/111. POLICIES

The following Policies were **APPROVED**:

- i. Document Retention and Disposal Policy
- ii. Freedom of Information Policy and Scheme
- iii. Pay Policy
- iv. Planning Protocol

24/112. BURIAL GROUND

- i. *Parishioner / Non-Parishioner status* – Councillor Hannay asked the councillors to consider what the criteria should be for determining whether a non-parishioner be treated as a parishioner in terms of fees to be paid as this was currently down to the discretion of the Parish Council.

Members discussed this in some detail and agreed that it was difficult to have hard rules as each case was taken on its merit. However, as a rule of thumb it was felt that those who had lived in the Parish for at least five years but had then had to move into supported living outside of the parish in the years before they died should be classed as a parishioner. Equally those who were

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the spouse, parent or child of someone already interred in the burial ground and had lived within the parish in the past five years should also be classed as a parishioner. It was also agreed that anyone who had been working within the parish for at least the last five years should be classed as a parishioner.

Councillor Hannay reported that a request for the purchase of a burial plot had been received by a non-parishioner whose parents and brother was buried in the burial ground, but they were asking to be treated as a parishioner. It was explained that they did not live in the parish and had not done so for many years. It was also noted that the brother had not been classed as a parishioner when they were interred. It was, therefore, **AGREED** that the request to be classed as a parishioner be **REFUSED**.

- ii. The application for the purchase of a burial plot and subsequent interment were **APPROVED**.

24/113. ENFORCEMENT – PLANNING

- i. *Flitteridge Farm*: There was nothing to report at this time.
- ii. *Lay-by Opposite Piltdown Service Station*: It was reported that the Clerk had received an email from Wealden District Council explaining that the Street Scene Team Leader had visited the site and spoken to the owner of the business that had been parking the cars in the layby. The owner had agreed to move the vehicles as soon as he could as they were not taxed. It was noted that he would be able to park one car in the layby, which is classed as the public highway, with a for-sale sign on it provided that the vehicle was taxed.

Councillor Minch reported that there had only been one car parking in the layby that day. It was also discussed whether it was possible to request ESCC to extend the bus stop markings so that it was only possible to park one car in the layby. The Clerk to contact ESCC to ask whether this could be implemented as part of the highway works being carried out in that area later in the year.

24/114. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - RECEIVED

It was **RESOLVED** to make the comments as set out after each application in respect of the following:

- i. **WD/2023/2741/F The Old Archery, North Hall Lane, Fletching TN22 3SA**

Proposed extension works to the existing dwelling house including remodelling of front elevation with small corner extension, attached garage and works to first floor accommodation including new roof structure. Amended Plans and Description.

This house lies within the AONB. Planning consent was given for a replacement (and larger) house in 2017. That consent lapsed and the current application was made last year for alterations to the existing house. The Parish Council objected to the application principally on the ground that the effect of it was to convert what is a modest cottage-type property into a much larger country house. Revised plans have now been submitted. The Parish Council considers, the alterations now proposed result in a more modest altered dwelling with a much reduced footprint and overall scale compared to the original application and, therefore, SUPPORTS the amended plans and description.

- ii. **WD/2023/2989/F Piltdown Poultry, Fairhazel, Piltdown TN22 3YE**

Conversion of existing barn into a single dwelling.

In 2017, consent was given for the adjacent barn to be converted into two larger dwellings. That consent was not implemented and in consequence lapsed. In 2022, an application to convert this barn to a single dwelling was made. That application, although then supported by the Parish Council, was refused. The grounds of refusal can be summarised as:

- *The application site is situated within a rural location outside any development boundary*
- *Significant modification would be required to make the existing building suitable for residential use.*

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- *The change of use and alterations to the barn and the domestic use of the site would not lead to overall enhancement to the immediate setting of the building*
- *the unjustified intensification of existing scattered development would urbanise and be harmful to the existing visual and rural amenities of the area.*
- *The weight to be afforded to the delivery of a single dwelling in terms of housing supply and support to the existing rural services in the area and short term economic benefit of the construction phase are outweighed by the significant impacts in terms of sustainability from the dwelling where residents will be reliant on private vehicle trips to access most facilities and services on a day to day basis.*
- *Overall the identified harm outweighs the benefits and the proposal would represent unsustainable development under the NPPF.*

Notwithstanding the case put forward by the applicant's Planning Statement, those grounds apply equally to the current application. Also, those grounds are strengthened by recent decisions: the two appeals dated 23rd August 2023 (APP/C1435/W/22/3297916 and APP/C1435/W/22/329.438) for the Lower Field and the Upper Field at Little Barkham Farm and the refusal of the in principle planning permission for a house on the site of the former Sand School at Little Barkham Farm (WD/2023/3137/PIP) all at Piltdown. Furthermore, there is concern about the size of the house, which would comprise 4 bedrooms plus a separate self-contained "granny annex". The Parish Council, therefore, OBJECTS to this application.

iii. **WD/2024/1041/LB The Griffin Inn, High Street, Fletching TN22 3SS**

Internal refurbishment works to listed building and curtilage listed buildings.

Given that these are internal works the Parish Council has NO COMMENTS to make on this application.

iv. **WD/2024/1232/F Vaughans, North Hall Lane, Fletching TN22 3TJ**

Demolition of single storey sunroom and erection of a two-storey extension to south eastern elevation.

This property is not within the AONB but does lie on the edge of the village Conservation Area. The application is supported by a comprehensive Design and Access Statement. The Parish Council agrees with the conclusion reached in the Statement that the alterations would improve the appearance and balance of the house by replacing an unattractive single storey extension with a more attractive and better functional two-storey extension far more in keeping with the design of the rest of the house. The Parish Council, therefore, SUPPORTS the application.

v. **WD/2024/0929/FA North Hall Shooting Club, North Hall Lane, Fletching TN22 3SA**

Variation of condition 2 of WD/2005/2619/FR to enable the clubhouse to also be used for Northall CPC meetings, training courses accredited by the CPSA and BASC, first aid training and occasionally for local community and charity events.

The following comments were submitted to Wealden District Council, as agreed by the Planning Working Group after the last meeting:

This is an application to permit a wider use of the Clubhouse than that permitted by Condition 2 of the planning consent dated 7th February 2006 (WD/2005/2619/FR). The current restriction on use is that the Clubhouse can only be used " for ancillary clubhouse/office purposes in connection with the clay pigeon shooting units at Northall Farm". The proposal is that, when the Clubhouse is not being so used, the permitted use should be extended to allow use for:

(i) Northall CPC meetings;

(ii) Training courses that are accredited by the Clay Pigeon Shooting Association (CPSA) and the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC);

(iii) first aid training, and

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(iv) occasionally for local community and charity events.

The site lies within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and regard needs to be had, not only to para 182 of the NPPF, but also to the guidance in the High Weald AONB Management Plan (2024-2029). The Parish Council notes the references in the applicant's Planning Statement to paragraphs of the Local Plan (Saved Policies) and the NPPF. The Parish Council also notes that there is no objection to the application from ESCC Highway Authority.

In consequence:

- 1. The proposed extended uses should (if permitted) be ancillary only so that the existing permitted use remains the principal use.*
- 2. On that basis, the Parish Council **OBJECTS** to the complete removal of the existing restriction on use as contained in the said Condition 2, for the simple reason that that use will continue to be the principal use of the Clubhouse. As regards the proposed additional uses:*
- 3. The Parish Council questions whether any additional permission is required for use of the Clubhouse for meetings of Northall CPC given that the existing condition allows for "ancillary clubhouse/office purposes".*
- 4. The Parish Council **DOES NOT OBJECT** in principle to the use of the Clubhouse by Northall CPC for it to hold **CPSA/BASC** accredited training courses ("training days") provided that (i) such training days are run by Northall CPC and to be by private invitation only (ii) no shooting takes place on a training day (iii) training days shall not be held on a Sunday or on a bank or public holiday (iii) the number of training days shall not exceed 6 in any calendar year and (iv) use of the Clubhouse for training days shall take place only between the hours of 10am and 5pm.*
- 5. The Parish Council is concerned at the potential impact on the amenities of occupiers of adjoining and neighbouring properties through unrestricted use of the Clubhouse for events. Therefore, if Wealden District Council is minded to give permission for such a use ("event days"), it should be on the basis that, in order to protect those amenities (i) such use is only for events which benefit the local community of the Parish of Fletching and/or for local charities from which the residents of the Parish of Fletching derive benefit (ii) no shooting to take place on the event days (iii) restrictions on noise levels on event days to be agreed with Wealden District Council (iv) event days shall not be held on a bank or public holiday (iii) the number of event days shall not exceed 6 in any calendar year and (iv) use of the Clubhouse for event days shall take place only between the hours of 10am and 5pm.*

Note: This application was subsequently **withdrawn** – see Minute 116 below

24/115. PLANNING APPLICATION – APPEAL

It was **AGREED** that representations be made to the Planning Inspectorate in respect of the refusal of the following application:

WD/2023/3137/PIP Little Barkham Farm, Goldbridge Road, Piltdown TN22 3XL

Erection of three-bedroom single storey dwelling with car port and associated works.

The Parish Council Objected to this application.

24/116. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - DECISIONS

Planning decisions **RECEIVED** from Wealden District Council since the last meeting:

Applications Approved

i. WD/2023/2653/F Fletching Garage, Bell Lane, Splaynes Green, Fletching TN22 3TN

A partial demolition of the existing garage building and converting it to a 4 bedroom house and erection of 2 x 4 bed roomed houses with associated car parking, amenity space and landscaping. (APPROVED, subject to a legal agreement, at Planning Committee North on 23 May 2024)

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Response to Parish Council

The Council's Conservation Officer supports the principle of the development and acknowledges that the proposal provides an opportunity to enhance the former forge building and general character of the Conservation Area. Amended plans have been submitted to address the concerns raised by the Conservation Officer.

The sustainability of the site / area was assessed during the approved housing application on the adjoining site. There have been no significant changes in the Council's five year housing land supply position and no material changes in planning policy since this decision was made. The adjoining site was considered to be sustainable and acceptable for housing development, on balance, which is a material planning considered when determining the current application.

The design and scale are considered to be acceptable and the pot pattern and garden sizes are consistent with the adjoining site. In addition, the gardens meet and exceed minimum standards.

Drainage can be controlled by condition. The application site is located in flood zone 1 and is therefore not susceptible to flooding. It is understood that some of the surface water flooding issues relate to the construction works on the adjoining site and highways ditch running along the western boundary of the site.

Specific drainage details could be secured by conditions to prevent surface water runoff onto the public highway.

ii. **WD/2023/3115/F Wilmshurst, Bell Lane, Fletching TN22 3YB**

Part single, part two-storey front extension, new canopy to proposed new entrance, material face-lift to existing office with terrace above. A glazed link addition linking the main dwelling to existing barn and a single side extension to barn with material alterations with change of use of barn to form part dwelling. An outdoor swimming pool addition with associated hard landscaping and external works. (APPROVED 10 May 2024)

iii. **WD/2024/0075/F Barkham Farm, Goldbridge Road, Piltdown TN22 3XL**

Proposed vehicular access and driveway to serve dwelling and adjoining agricultural land with existing access remodelled to provide access for pedestrians/cyclists only. (APPROVED 31 May 2024)

Applications Refused

i. **WD/2023/2627/MAJ Wilderlands Farm, Bell Lane, Fletching TN22 3YB**

Proposed change of use of land for mixed agricultural/educational purposes with temporary rural workers' dwelling, agricultural building and ancillary development, and part retrospective application for wildlife pond. (REFUSED 28 May 2024)

Applications Withdrawn

i. **WD/2024/0929/FA North Hall Shooting Club, North Hall Lane, Fletching TN22 3SA**

Variation of condition 2 of WD/2005/2619/FR to enable the clubhouse to also be used for Northall CPC meetings, training courses accredited by the CPSA and BASC, first aid training and occasionally for local community and charity events. (WITHDRAWN 6 June 2024)

24/117. FLETCHING BONFIRE SOCIETY SUMMER FETE

It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council should have a stand at the Fletching Bonfire Society Summer Fete taking place on the Recreation Ground on Saturday 20 July 2024. Parish Councillors would take charge of the stall on a rota basis. The Clerk to book the stall with the Bonfire Society.

24/118. ITEMS FOR THE PARISH MAGAZINE

It was agreed that the following items be included for the next edition of the Parish Magazine:

- CIL – request for ideas for Piltdown area

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- Stall at the Bonfire Society Fete
- D-Day Anniversary – thanks to Jamie and Cindy Buchanan and all other contributors to the event
- Parish in Bloom judging day

24/119. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Replacement litter bins and other CIL items

It was requested that Councillors contact the Clerk with any other items they wish to be considered at the next meeting.

24/120. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The start time of the meetings was discussed and the majority agreed that 6.30pm was the preferred time.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is due to be held on Monday 8th July at 6.30pm in the Pavilion on the Recreation Ground.

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FPC Meetings Actions List - July 2024

Date	Action	Who By	Notes
08/01/24	Invite PCSO Leon Greck to future FPC meeting	Clerk	Ongoing: email invite sent. Clerk investigating whether PCSO Greck still covers Fletching as he was linked to Wadhurst in social media post from Sussex Police.
05/02/24	CIL Funds: obtain quotes for path in burial ground; replacement public litter bins; new handrail beside village hall	RH & Clerk	Public litter bins: information received from WDC. Decision made as to type of bin. Now awaiting WDC for installation costs. On Agenda
04/03/24	Resilience Plan: Identify team members from each area of the Parish and add in any additional resources to Appendix D	KM & Clerk	Ongoing. KM waiting for response from prospective team members. Due to go to September FPC as Cllr Minch away.
10/06/24	Submit AGAR documents to external auditor by 1 July 2024 and publicise public right to inspect.	Clerk	Completed
10/06/24	Notify non-parishioner of FPC decision with regards to purchase of burial plot.	Clerk	Completed
10/06/24	Submit FPC Comments to Planning Inspectorate in respect of Little Barkham Farm	Clerk	Completed
10/06/24	Request booking form from Bonfire Society for stall at Summer Fete	Clerk	Completed

/Notes from Parish Liaison Group Meeting 12 June 2024 at the Ashdown Forest Centre.

Meeting attended by :

Ashdown Forest:

Mark Pearson CEO (who led the meeting)

Zoe Nichols Administration Manager

Parish Council

Donna French Uckfield

Bernadette Reed Uckfield

Lolita Reeves Maresfield

Alice Tyrrell Ashurst Wood

Sharon Broad Ashurst Wood

Douglas Denham Pinnock West Hoathly

Tony Martin Danehill and Chelwood Gate

Martyn Everitt Crowborough

Introductions

The CEO introduced himself to the meeting and those present introduced themselves.

Matters Arising

1. Ashdown Forest Management plan.

This is in draft and has been discussed with Natural England. This has the goal of favourable status. The key issues are Deer and the lack of Grazing across the forest. There is an associated work programme that accompanies with the plan which will be live until the end of next year. A new ten year plan will be written to coincide with a proposed 10-year countryside stewardship agreement. There will be engagement around the new ten-year plan.

The Countryside Manager Ash Walmsley will come to the next meeting to present details of this.

Deer are being managed in partnership with the High Weald. There are using drone surveys to map the number of Fallow Deer per square km and then target those key areas. Already this is showing positive signs as the population has gone down from 18 to 13. The ideal amount is below 5.

The Forest has a new Deer Ranger, Darren Kilner. A new member of the Livestock Team has just been appointed.

2. Landscape Recovery

The initial bid to the Landscape Recovery bid was not successful, It was discussed that the application had failed due to the score relating the carbon sequestration. This is challenging to understand because the Forest holds a lot of Carbon, and .

the CEO stated that there were positives to take away from the bid. There are 42 partners who continue to be supportive, and many are new landowners, unknown to us beforehand.

We've been informed that there will be another tranche of applications after the Election.

Hopefully a second application will be made near the end of the year..

3. The CEO spoke briefly about tree works and commented on the Forest Tree Safety Policy. He explained the three zones and how the areas will be dealt with in rotation.

4. Car Parking

The CEO confirmed that in the first year there was just over £232K net profit.

This is slightly more than the Grant that was cut by ESCC.

The cost of parking charges will remain the same for three years.

The surplus is reinvested into the Forest, to include car park maintenance.

The sum's received are 60% annual permits and 40% daily tickets.

Fines are a small percentage.

There has been a significant take up on concessions. The Annual Concessionary charge is £5. Blue Badge holders park for free.

QR codes in the car parks are checked regularly.

Car park maintenance has been undertaken in the following car parks:

- Wrens Warren
- Quarry
- Piglets
- Twyfords
- Broadstone
- Long
- Poundgate
- Entrance to Fairwarp Church.

There is a program being developed during the next 4 months. Car parks will be assessed/ graded to see which needs work first . There is a repair budget for the works

5. Main external Forest communications are done via facebook.

Applied to High Weald and have funding from them for access for all trail.

The forest is being Zoned and steps are being taken to make the centre more of a hub.

Need to get younger generation involved in the countryside. There are Schools that visit on a regular basis.

The representative for Danehill and Chelwood Gate said that they were looking into a cycle route from Hartfield to Fairwarp that would go close to/ over the Forest. The CEO said that although this was something that sounded like a good idea to explore, there are Forest Bye-laws in place and also consent would be required from Natural England, which would need to be accounted for. The Administration Manager suggested that it would be beneficial to have discussion with the Forest before this was taken any further.

6. Bracken

As Asulox can no longer be used, Bracken will be dealt with by contactor clearance at the end of the season and volunteer pulling.

The representative for Maresfield said that they had been contacted by a farmer (Henry Osborne) with regards to trying to get a reduction in speed on Crowborough Road to protect livestock. The CEO said that he had advised the Farmer that the Forest would support this.

7. The representative for West Hoathly suggested that the East Sussex Association are asked to assist with obtaining a baseline for traffic in the Forest.

8. It was mentioned that the Parish Grant cycle is nearing an end and the Forest should be looked at and it was indicated that the Parish Councils would support a grant application from the Forest.

Next Meetings

The CEO suggested that meetings reduce to 3 times a year after the Forest Board Meetings, so that he can bring agreed updates to the meeting.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 11th December.

Meeting closed 8.35pm

Subject: Properties at risk of flooding - Sandbags
Date: Wednesday 19 June 2024 at 12:52:30 British Summer Time
From: Chris Bending
To: 'Alfriston Parish Council', clerk@buxted-pc.gov.uk, clerk@fletching-pc.org, 'Forest Row', Clerk', 'Hellingly Parish, isfieldparishcouncil@aol.com, Jo Ognjanovic, townclerk@uckfieldtc.gov.uk (townclerk@uckfieldtc.gov.uk), clerk@pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk
CC: Sarah Garner, Hannah Smith
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png, image003.jpg

Good afternoon all

The Council is currently reviewing its sandbag policy, prompted by the gathering speed of the impacts of climate change and the increased risk of flooding in the district.

As we are already beginning to see increased instances of flooding with increased impacts, there is a chance that the number of properties at risk will increase.

For those that remember, in the past the Council kept its own stock of sandbags in our depots and our depot staff would distribute sandbags according to need. When the depots closed, work was done to support those properties most at risk of fluvial flooding. However, the surface water we are seeing from the more frequent and torrential downpours makes it harder to predict and ensure that all properties are well-prepared generally. Whilst there is no statutory obligation to supply sandbags, and whilst we no longer have the means to easily store and distribute sandbags, we would like to consider what might be made possible for the benefit of our residents in those areas of highest risk. Your parishes are those identified with properties that meet this criteria.

We are now looking at what space is available across the district and whether local councils would be prepared to consider accommodating the storage of sandbags and support the distribution should it be needed. One of the reasons for considering this approach is that the increasingly common occurrence of flash flooding means it could be difficult for our officers to mobilise quickly enough to protect properties at immediate risk, given our geography and related travel distances. We would be looking to procure the market alternative to sandbags which are gel-filled, lighter, easier to manage and transport and take up less space. They can also be re-used and the contents are recyclable.

Before going any further, we'd very much like to canvas your views on what might be possible. We are proposing that -

- Gel filled sandbags are provided by us to delivered to a pre-agreed location in your parish/ town area at our cost
- Sandbags are distributed to the properties most identified as being at risk of flooding as needed in an incident to be arranged by your local council/ community
- Routine maintenance and replenishment of stores is provided by the Council

who will also arrange for the recycling of sandbags as necessary

- Distribution is arranged according to local need by parish/ town council

Please could I ask you let me have your initial thoughts on this suggestion by end July.

Many thanks in advance

Chris

Chris Bending | Director of Place

Wealden District Council

01892 602478

chris.bending@wealden.gov.uk

Council Offices | Vicarage Lane | Hailsham | East Sussex | BN27 2AX

<http://www.wealden.gov.uk>

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Fletching Parish Council Finances 30 June 2024

Payments made by Direct Debit/Debit Card/BACS in June 2024

Payee	For	Amount	Method
HSBC	Bank Charge	£ 5.00	DD
EE Ltd	Mobile Phone bill	£ 17.76	DD
Hugofox Ltd	FPC Website	£ 11.99	DD
FRGC	VAT Refund	£7,281.27	BACS
Amazon	Wireless Router for Pavilion	£ 69.97	DC
Microsoft Ireland Operations Ltd	MS Office 365	£ 59.99	DD
	TOTAL	£7,445.98	

Payments Received in June 2024

From	For	Amount
HMRC	VAT refund	£ 7,877.26
R A Brooks	Burial Ground	£ 400.00
	Total	£ 8,277.26

Payments for Approval – July 2024

Payee	For	Amount	Method
Knill James	Payroll Provider	£ 42.12	BACS
Mulberry LAS	Audit Fees	£ 253.50	BACS
Troy Hayes Planning Ltd	Neighbourhood Plan support	£2,744.27	BACS
Countrymans Contractors Ltd	Grass Cutting	£ 505.72	BACS
G Paterson-Griggs	Clerk Expenses	£ 43.69	BACS
ESCC Pension Fund	Clerk Pension	£ 301.19	BACS
G Paterson-Griggs	Clerk Salary	£1,026.11	BACS

Fletching Parish Council Bank Reconciliation		30-Jun-24	
Balance per bank statements as at		30-Jun-24	Cashbook
FPC Current Account	£ 15,061.50	Opening balance	£56,377.57
FPC Savings Account	£ 72,203.92	Add receipts in year	£49,423.68
FPC War Memorial Account	£ 434.76	Less payments in year	-£17,587.02
FPC Maryon-Wilson Account	£ 514.05		
Net Balance	£ 88,214.23	Balance	£88,214.23

APPROVED at a Parish Council Meeting on 8 July 2024:

Signed:

Chair of Fletching Parish Council

Date: 8 July 2024

(e) CIL receipts retained

	£Sum
CIL receipts for the previous years kept at the end of the reported year.	£3193.38
CIL receipts for the reported year kept at the end of the reported year.	£12803.81

(f) Notices received from the charging authority (Wealden District Council)

	£Sum
(i) The total value of CIL receipts subject to notices served in accordance with regulation 59E during the reported year.	£0
(ii) The total value of CIL receipts subject to a notice served in accordance with regulation 59E in any year that has not been paid to the relevant charging authority by the end of the reported year.	£0

Guidance Notes

Regulation 121B (1) of the Community Infrastructure Regulations 2010 (as amended) requires a Parish / Town council to prepare a report for any financial year ("the reported year") in which it receives CIL receipts.

Regulation 121B (2) sets out what the report must include. The tables above reflect these requirements. The report must include:

- (a) CIL receipts retained - CIL receipts from previous years retained at the beginning of the reported year.
- (b) CIL receipts received during the reporting year - The total CIL receipts for the reported year.
- (c) Summary details of CIL expenditure during the reported year - Summary details of CIL expenditure during the reported year.
- (d) CIL expenditure - The total CIL expenditure for the reported year;
- (e) CIL receipts retained
 - (i) CIL receipts for the previous year's kept at the end of the reported year.
 - (ii) CIL receipts for the reported year kept at the end of the reported year.
- (f) Notices received from the charging authority (Wealden District Council)
 - (i) Details of any notices received in accordance with regulation 59E, including the total value of CIL receipts subject to notices served in accordance with regulation 59E² during the reported year.
 - (ii) The total value of CIL receipts subject to a notice served in accordance with regulation 59E in any year that has not been paid to the relevant charging authority by the end of the reported year.

² If a parish council has failed to spend CIL funds passed to it within 5 years of receipt, or has applied the funds not in accordance with the Regulations then the District Council can serve a notice on the Town or Parish Council requiring it to repay some or all of the receipts passed. The District Council will be required to spend any recovered funds in the Town or Parish council area.

FLETCHING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Gabriella Paterson-Griggs

Tel: 07534 959772

E-mail: clerk@fletching-pc.org

Website www.fletching-pc.org



Fletching Burial Ground - Applications Received

The following applications have been received:

Grant of Burial Rights

Applicant	Burial Plot / Cremated Remains Plot	Plot No	Parishioner / Non- Parishioner

Notice of Interment

Deceased	Plot No	Date	Burial / Cremated Remains	Parishioner / Non-Parishioner
Jessie Waterhouse	1119	10/07/24	Burial	Non-Parishioner

Consent to erect a monument (proposed design attached)

Applicant	Plot No	Name of person interred in plot	First inscription / 2 nd inscription	Parishioner / Non-Parishioner



Fletching Bonfire Summer fete - 20th July 2024

Dear stall holder,

Thank you for joining us at our fete. Your support is very much appreciated and I hope we all have a good day.

As well as all of your amazing stalls we are hosting a classic car show, dog show, dancing groups, bar, food stalls, big prize raffle and a falconry display.

Arrival

All stall holders will be able to arrive from 9:00 and must be set up ready for the event to open at 11:00.

One vehicle will be permitted onto the recreation ground, if you could please provide me with the registration plate of the expected vehicle I can then provide you with a coloured pass. This pass must be shown in the vehicle at all times. Any other vehicles must be removed by 10:30 and placed in our free public car park.

Entry to the field is via Ruston bridge road.

From the A272, at the Piltdown Crossroads follow the directional road signs into the village. Follow Ruston bridge road into the village.

When at the Fletching sign, the entrance to the field is the next turning on the left. This will be sign posted.



Upon arrival you will be greeted at the gate who will provide you your location on the field for the day.

During the event

We ask that no vehicles are moved during the event times (11:00 - 16:00). If a vehicle needs to be removed from the site please ensure that the vehicle is escorted off the field by a Fletching Bonfire marshal.

Marshals will be present throughout the event and will easily be identified with branded t-shirts and hi vis jackets. Any issues please find a marshal who will be happy to help.

Please make sure

- If you are selling alcohol you will need your own TENS for the event. A copy of this will also need to be sent to Fletching Bonfire Society
- Please listen to all marshals, all will be wearing hi vis tabards
- Please check your emails 24 hours before the event for any last minute updates
- Fletching Bonfire has the right to ask stall holders to leave the event at any time
- Only one vehicle will be permitted onto the rec and must display a pass at all times
- Vehicles must not exceed 5 mph and must have hazard lights on when moving around the field
- Please take as much rubbish away with you as possible
- First aid cover will be present at the event

First aid: First aid cover will be located near the Cricket Pavillion and are there to attend everyone's needs.

Toilets: Toilets will also be located near the Cricket Pavillion. There will also be toilets available within the pavilion.

Thank you for joining us for this event. We hope you have an enjoyable day and any feedback following the event would be much appreciated. We ask that you continue to advertise the fete.

Many thanks

Will Isted

Fletching Bonfire Society Chairman

